



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION (FRA)

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: FRA-04-43T

POSITION TITLE: Railroad Safety Specialist (Signals and Train Control)
GS-2121-13
Full Performance Level: GS-13
Salary-Sacramento: \$72,454-\$94,192 per annum
Cambridge: \$73,593-\$95,672 per annum
Note: This position has special job requirements. See page 3.

POSITION LOCATION: Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Safety
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Sacramento, California

AREA OF CONSIDERATION: All Sources (Status and Nonstatus Candidates)(Candidates eligible for special appointing authorities and for consideration under the Career Transition Assistance and Interagency Career Transition Assistance Programs also may apply.)

OPENING DATE: 06-09-04

CLOSING DATE: 06-30-04

NUMBER AND TYPE: Two Full-Time Permanent Positions

Due to U.S. mail delays, it is recommended that applicants fax, use a professional delivery service (i.e., FedEx, UPS, etc.), email, or personally deliver applications to ensure timely receipt.

DOT is an Equal Opportunity Employer

All qualified applicants will be considered regardless of political affiliation, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, or other non-merit factors. DOT provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify us. Decisions on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Why Work For Us? Transportation impacts every facet of American life, providing people access to work, school, loved ones, and nature's rich bounty. The U.S. Department of Transportation is committed to transportation excellence and strives to create the best possible integrated air, land, and sea transportation system for America. As a DOT employee, you will become a part of the dedicated workforce who work day-to-day to make measurable improvements in our transportation system, the security of our nation, and the quality of American life.

The Federal Railroad Administration, an Operating Administration under the Department of Transportation, was created to promote and enforce safety throughout the U.S. railroad system, rehabilitate the Northeast Corridor rail passenger services, consolidate Federal support for rail transportation, and support research and development for rail transportation for passengers, railroad employees and the general public.

Summary Of The Essential Job Functions: As a Railroad Safety Specialist (Signals and Train Control), you will be required to:

- Conduct technical evaluations of signals and train control activities within the region and provide technical guidance and advice.
- Lead and coordinate special assessments, assignments, inspections and investigations of the design, construction, inspection and maintenance of signals and train control systems and coordinate the investigation of serious accidents within the region.
- Serve as liaison between FRA and senior railroad and labor employees.
- Conduct conferences and seminars for Federal and State personnel, railroad employees, and labor organizations to provide technical advice and interpretation of regulations.
- Compose reports, letters and memoranda related to signals and train control issues and regulations.

What Are The Minimum Qualifications For This Position?

- You must have at least one year of specialized experience in or directly related to the essential job functions described above. For Federal employees this experience must have been at the next lower grade level. If you want us to consider experience you obtained outside the Federal Government, it must have been at that same level of complexity. The specialized experience must demonstrate:
- Broad knowledge of the railroad industry including economic and operating considerations and equipment;
- Knowledge of the general safety and health principles and practices applicable to the railroad industry;
- Knowledge of railroad accident investigation techniques; and
- Skill in written and oral communication.

- Knowledge of the design, installation, maintenance, testing or inspection of signals and train control systems; and
- Knowledge of applicable Federal laws and regulations pertaining to railroad signaling and train control systems; and
- Knowledge of locomotive braking systems and their relationship to and interface with train control or automatic train stop systems and braking distances.

What Are The Required Knowledge, Skills And Abilities For This Job?

- Ability to plan and manage a regional program related to signals and train control.
- Expert knowledge of signals and train control in order to disseminate information and ensure uniform application of rules and regulations pertaining to signals and train control.
- Ability to lead and conduct special investigations and inspections and make recommendations on the need for modification of inspection and operating procedures.
- Ability to effectively deal with the railroad industry, labor unions, the general public and State and local government on matters relating to signals and train control concerns.

Other Special Job Requirements

- If selected, you will be required to possess a valid State drivers license at all times while employed by the FRA in order to perform the duties of the position.
- If selected, you must pass a Drug Test prior to appointment unless you are presently employed in a DOT position that requires drug testing. You also will be subject to random drug testing while employed in this safety-sensitive position.
- The position requires extensive travel.

How Will The Qualified Applicants Be Further Evaluated And Rated To

Identify The Best Qualified? If you are basically qualified for this job, you will be further evaluated on the quality and extent of your total accomplishments, experience and education related to the knowledge, skills and abilities listed below, if any. We also may consider your performance appraisal, awards, and relevant training. Your ranking will measure the degree to which your background matches the demands of this position.

What Employee Benefits Do We Provide? The Federal Government offers excellent benefits, flexible work schedules and family-friendly programs. You will receive paid annual leave and sick leave. Depending on whether the position you are applying for is permanent or time limited, you will be eligible for retirement, health insurance, life insurance and Long Term Care insurance. A brief summary of the Federal benefits for permanent employees can be found at www.usajobs.opm.gov/EI61.htm.

Before You Go Any Further, Here Are Some Other Things You Need to Know

- United States citizenship is required. (Proof of citizenship will be required to be shown upon appointment.)
- If you are a male between the ages of 18 and 26 or were born after December 31, 1959, certification is required at the time you are employed that you have registered with the Selective Service for the draft, unless Selective Service has approved a waiver for you.
- You must meet the qualification and time-in-grade requirements by the closing date of the announcement.
- If you can be appointed under a special appointment authority, please let us know on your application the special appointing authority for which you can be considered. You must submit proof of your eligibility for a special appointment authority.
- If you are selected or among the best qualified candidates for this position, you will be subject to a determination of your suitability for Federal employment.
- If the selection results in the promotion of an FRA employee, travel and transportation expenses to the new duty location will be paid by the FRA in accordance with applicable Federal regulations. In addition, if the selectee is an FRA employee who occupies a position that has significantly different duties from that of this position, transportation and travel expenses will be paid. No travel or transportation expenses will be paid if the selectee is outside the FRA.
- The FRA has determined that seniority rights/reemployment rights and leaves of absence from railroads constitute an actual or an appearance of a conflict of interest. Therefore, if the individual selected for a position is already an FRA employee who has reemployment rights which will create a conflict of interest in this position, she/he will be required to divest any reemployment rights held before the selection is finalized. If an FRA employee is selected who has reemployment rights that will not create a conflict of interest in the position, the employee may retain these rights as long as the conflict does not exist.
- FRA employees are prohibited from owning railroad stock, except, under certain circumstances, as part of a diversified mutual fund.
- Applicants with competitive status as current or former Federal Government employees may be given first consideration.
- If selected, you will be subject to the Standards of Ethical Conduct applicable to all DOT employees.

How To Apply For This Position

- You may submit your current SF-171 (Application for Federal Employment), Resume, or an OF-612 (Optional Application for Federal Employment). You may choose which form to submit provided it contains all required information. Required information is listed in the section below labeled “Here’s What Your Application Must Contain.” Please be sure to indicate what grade level(s) you are applying for and the duty location, if appropriate.

- For maximum consideration, tell us how you meet the "Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSAs)" for this position. The KSAs for this position are listed above.
- To be considered for selection priority under the Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP), you must submit appropriate certification that you are eligible. You also must meet the job's minimum qualifications and rate at least Highly Qualified on the crediting plan for each knowledge, skill and ability requirement that is listed in this announcement.
- The "Area of Consideration" section shown on the first page indicates who may apply for this position. All United States citizens may apply. Candidates may be eligible to be considered three ways: as a current or former Federal Government employee with "status;" as a "nonstatus" candidate (candidates with no prior Federal Government service); and as a candidate eligible for a special appointment authority. You must submit a complete application package for each type of consideration you are eligible and wish to be considered. You also must submit appropriate proof of your eligibility as a status candidate and as a candidate eligible for a special appointment authority, including your eligibility for veteran preference.
- For Federal applicants, a complete performance appraisal is required. It must be current – meaning it was issued to you within the past year – and it must be official – meaning it appraises your performance over a normal rating cycle in your present job and has been signed by your supervisor. If you are unable to submit your current performance appraisal, please tell us why. You also should submit a copy of your latest SF-50 "Notification of Personnel Action" that reflects career or career-conditional tenure.

Privacy Act Requirements: The forms referenced in this announcement are used to determine applicants' qualifications for the position and are authorized under 5 U.S.C. 3302 and 3361.

Where To Send Your Application

- You may mail or deliver your application to the Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Human Resources, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20590.
- If you are faxing your application, please limit the application to **a maximum of 20 pages** and include a cover sheet. Our fax number is 202/493-6169. We will not accept applications faxed from a Federal Government fax machine. You may email your application forms to teresa.overnier@fra.dot.gov.
- ALL applications must be in our office or postmarked by the closing date of the announcement.
- Applications mailed in a Government envelope will not be accepted.

HERE'S WHAT YOUR APPLICATION MUST CONTAIN

JOB INFORMATION

- Announcement number and title of the position

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Full name
- Mailing address (with Zip Code)
- Social Security Number
- Country of citizenship (Most Federal jobs require United States citizenship)
- Veterans' preference
(**Proof Required – Attach DD 214**)
- Federal employees & Reinstatement eligibles (**Attach SF-50**)
- Highest Federal civilian grade held

EDUCATION

- High School name, city, state, and date of diploma or GED
- College/University names, city, and state
- Major(s)
- Type and year of degree(s) received

WORK EXPERIENCE

(paid and unpaid)

- Job Title
- Duties and accomplishments
- Employer's name and address (indicate if we may contact your current supervisor)
- Supervisor's name and telephone number
- Starting and ending dates (month and year)
- Hours per week
- Salary and/or Grade (GS-or equivalent)

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- Job-related training courses (title and year)
- Job-related skills (e.g., foreign languages, computer software/hardware, etc.)
- Job-related certificates and licenses (current only)
- Job-related honors, awards, and special accomplishments (e.g., memberships in professional or honor societies, leadership activities, public speaking, performance awards and publications) (give dates)

Questions?

Call Teresa Overmier at 202/493-6116 or TDD 202/493-6487 or 6488, or email at teresa.overmier@fra.dot.gov . Please reference the announcement number so we can help you more efficiently.

Para mas informacion en espanol sobre este anuncio de vacante o cualquier otra information sobre empleo en las Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), por favor llame a Francisco Gonzalez 202/493-6076. La FRA es un empleador con igualdad de oportunidad en el empleo, y que por medio de programas de accion afirmativa mantiene un ambiente multicultural. Todos los que soliciten recibiran igual consideracion, sin ninguna excepcion, por raza, color, religion, sexo, origin nacional, politica, impedimento fisico o edad.

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS: If you need a copy of this announcement in an alternative format to accommodate a disability, please contact Marcella Mullins at marcie.mullins@fra.dot.gov, on 202/493-6114 or at the TDD number 202/493-6487 or 6488.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you are requesting reasonable accommodation in connection with applying for this vacancy, please contact Marcella Mullins as listed above.